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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/966,516	09/28/2001	David B. Kumhyr	AUS920010399US1	4749

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EXAMINER	
HOSSAIN, TANIM M	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
2145	

DATE MAILED: 01/11/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/966,516	KUMHYR, ET AL	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Tanim Hossain	2145	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *12 October 2005*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-39* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-39* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hackbarth (U.S. 2002/0143877).

As per claim 1, Hackbarth teaches a method of configuring computer-based communications, said method comprising: obtaining respective user identifiers appropriate to identify a user of a computer to each of multiple communications applications accessible with the computer (paragraph 0053); and providing on a display screen of the computer a graphical user interface associated with said computer-based communication, wherein the graphical user interface includes representations of said multiple communications applications (0052).

As per claim 2, Hackbarth teaches the method as recited in claim 1, further comprising, in response to user selection of a first one of the communication applications, connecting the user to the application to establish a first session, wherein the connecting includes providing a corresponding previously-obtained user identifier to the application (0044).

As per claim 3, Hackbarth teaches the method as recited in claim 1, wherein said obtaining user identifiers comprises receiving entry of the identifiers from the user (0044).

As per claim 4, Hackbarth teaches the method as received in claim 1, wherein said obtaining user identifiers comprises accessing previously-stored user identifiers (0150-0159).

As per claim 5, Hackbarth teaches the method as recited in claim 1, further comprising obtaining respective passwords appropriate to allow access of the user to each of the multiple communications applications (0065-0069).

As per claim 6, Hackbarth teaches the method as recited in claim 5, wherein said obtaining passwords comprises accessing passwords previously stored on the computer (0146).

As per claim 7, Hackbarth teaches the method as recited in claim 1, further comprising communicating the user identifiers to an additional computer (0150-0159).

As per claim 8, Hackbarth teaches the method as recited in claim 1, further comprising forming a programming object or class including the obtained user identifiers (0150-0159)

As per claim 9, Hackbarth teaches the method as recited in claim 1, wherein the multiple communications applications include an application selected from the group consisting of: electronic mail application, instant messaging application, and internet chat application (Abstract).

As per claim 10, Hackbarth teaches the method as recited in claim 1, wherein said providing a graphical user interface comprises providing a window indicating a status of each of the multiple communications applications (0044).

As per claim 11, Hackbarth teaches the method as recited in claim 1, wherein said representations of multiple communications applications comprise respective icons (Figure 9).

As per claim 12, Hackbarth teaches the method as recited in claim 2, further comprising, upon receiving instructions from the user, joining the first session to a second session established by connection of the user to a second one of the communications applications (0201-0203).

As per claim 13, Hackbarth teaches the method as recited in claim 12, wherein said joining comprises immediately transferring messages received in the first session to the second session (0201-0203).

As per claim 14, Hackbarth teaches the method as recited in claim 13, wherein said joining further comprises immediately transferring messages received in the second session to the first session (0201-0203).

As per claim 15, Hackbarth teaches the method as recited in claim 1, further comprising: identifying all of the communications applications accessible with the computer; and determining a status of each of the identified communications applications (0201-0203).

As per claim 16, Hackbarth teaches the method as recited in claim 15, wherein said identifying and determining comprise determining a status of each communications port within the computer (0044).

As per claim 17, Hackbarth teaches a computer system, comprising: a display screen (0054); means for obtaining respective user identifiers effective to identify a user of the computer system to each of multiple communications applications accessible with the computer system (0150-0159); and means for providing on the display screen a graphical user interface associated with computer-based communication, wherein the graphical user interface includes representations of the multiple communications applications (0150-0159).

As per claim 18, Hackbarth teaches the system as recited in claim 17, wherein said means for obtaining and means for providing comprise a communications aggregation program stored on a storage medium accessible by the computer system (0201-0203).

As per claim 19, Hackbarth teaches the system as recited in claim 18, wherein the communications aggregation program is adapted to access a data structure including the user identifiers (0201-0203).

As per claim 20, Hackbarth teaches the system as recited in claim 19, wherein the data structure comprises an object or class in an object-based programming approach (0201-0203).

As per claim 21, Hackbarth teaches the system as recited in claim 18, further comprising application programs stored on the storage medium, wherein the application programs correspond to the multiple communications applications (0201-0203).

As per claim 22, Hackbarth teaches the system as recited in claim 21, wherein the application programs are adapted to receive corresponding user identifiers from the communications aggregation program (0150-0159).

As per claim 23, Hackbarth teaches the system as recited in claim 22, wherein the communications aggregation program and the application programs adhere to a common application programming interface (0201-0203).

As per claim 24, Hackbarth teaches the system as recited in claim 17, further comprising means for identifying all communications applications accessible with the computer, and for determining a status of each of the identified communications applications (0044).

As per claim 25, Hackbarth teaches a computer-usable medium, comprising: first program instructions executable on a computer for obtaining respective user identifiers effective

to identify a user of a computer to each of multiple communications applications accessible with the computer (0150-0159); and second program instructions executable on the computer for providing on a display screen of the computer a graphical user interface associated with said computer-based communication, wherein the graphical user interface includes representations of said multiple communications applications (0150-0159, 0201-0203).

As per claim 26, Hackbarth teaches the carrier medium as recited in claim 25, wherein the first and second program instructions are within a communications aggregation program stored on the carrier medium (0201-0203).

As per claim 27, Hackbarth teaches the carrier medium as recited in claim 25, wherein the first program instructions are further executable to obtain the user identifiers by accessing a data structure (0150-0159).

As per claim 28, Hackbarth teaches the carrier medium as recited in claim 27, further comprising the data structure (0150-0159).

As per claim 29, Hackbarth teaches a computer-usable carrier medium, comparing a data structure storing a set of user identifiers effective to identify a user of a computer to each of multiple communications applications accessible with the computer (0150-0159).

As per claim 30, Hackbarth teaches the carrier medium as recited in claim 29, wherein the data structure comprises an object or class in an object-based programming approach (0131).

As per claim 31, Hackbarth teaches the carrier medium as recited in claim 29, wherein the data structure further stores passwords corresponding to one or more of the user identifiers (0146).

As per claim 32, Hackbarth teaches the carrier medium as recited in claim 29, wherein the data structure further stores a name referring to the user identified by the user identifiers (0150-0159).

As per claim 33, Hackbarth teaches the carrier medium as recited in claim 32, wherein the name further identifies an object or class in an object-based programming approach (0150-0159).

As per claim 34, Hackbarth teaches a computer-usable carrier medium, comprising first program instructions executable on a computer system to implement a first communications application for the computer system, wherein the first program instructions are adapted to receive, from a communications aggregation program running on the computer system, a first user identifier identifying a user of the computer system to the first communications application (0150-0159).

As per claim 35, Hackbarth teaches the carrier medium as recited in claim 34, further comprising a second program instructions executable on the computer system to implement a second communications application for the computer system, wherein the second program instructions are adapted to receive from the communications aggregation program a second user identifier identifying a user of the computer system to the second communications application (0201-0203).

As per claim 36, Hackbarth teaches the carrier medium as recited in claim 35, wherein the first and second communications applications and the communications aggregation program adhere to a common application programming interface (0150-0159).

As per claim 37, Hackbarth teaches the carrier medium as recited in claim 34, wherein the first program instructions comprise a wrapper or shell program enabling a third party communications application program to interact with the communications aggregation program (0201-0203).

As per claim 38, Hackbarth teaches a method of configuring computer-based communication, said method comprising: obtaining respective user identifiers appropriate to identify a user of a computer to each of multiple communications applications accessible with the computer (0053); providing on a display screen of the computer a graphical user interface associated with said computer-based communication, wherein the graphical user interface includes representations of said multiple communications applications (0052); storing the obtained user identifiers in a data structure (0053); and communicating the user identifiers to an additional computer (0150-0159).

As per claim 39, Hackbarth teaches the method as recited in claim 38, wherein said storing comprises forming a programming object of class including the obtained user identifiers (0150-0159).

Response to Remarks

Applicant's remarks filed on October 12, 2005 have fully been considered, but are not persuasive.

The evidence submitted is insufficient to establish diligence from a date prior to the date of reduction to practice of the Hackbarth reference to either a constructive reduction to practice

or an actual reduction to practice. There exists insufficient evidence in the submitted papers to conclude proper reduction to practice and diligence prior to that of Hackbarth.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tanim Hossain whose telephone number is 571/272-3881. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 am - 5 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jason Cardone can be reached on 571/272-3933. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Tanim Hossain
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2145

JASON CARDONE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER